Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. – 23. (Canceled)

24.   (Currently Amended) A method of magnetic resonance imaging of a kidney in vascularized human or non human body comprising the steps of:

administering into the vasculature of said body a bolus of a blood pool MR contrast agent;

generating a contrast enhanced MR image of said kidney during the first pass of said contrast agent;

generating at least one further MR image of said kidney after the concentration of said contrast agent throughout the blood of said body has become substantially uniform and, deriving from said MR images values indicative of renal perfusion and renal artery stenosis grade.

25.   (Previously presented)   The method of claim 24, wherein said blood pool MR contrast agent is a   superparamagnetic contrast agent.

26.   (Previously presented)   The method of claim 24, wherein said blood pool MR contrast agent comprises magnetic iron oxide particles having on their surfaces an optionally modified polysaccharide and optionally a material which inhibits opsonization.

27.   (Previously presented)   The method of claim 24, wherein said blood pool MR contrast agent comprises superparamagnetic iron oxide particles having on their surfaces degraded starch.

28.   (Previously presented)   The method of claim 24, wherein said contrast enhanced MR image of said   kidney generated during the first pass of said contrast agent is a T_2*-weighted image.

29.   (Previously presented)   The method of claim 24, wherein said at least one further MR image of said   kidney generated after the concentration of said contrast agent throughout the   blood of said body has become substantially uniform is a T_1-weighted image.

30- 31. (Canceled)

32.   (Previously presented)   The method of claim 24, wherein said contrast enhanced MR image of said   kidney generated during the first pass of said contrast agent is used to quantify intra-parenchymal blood volume.

33.   (Previously presented)   The method of claim 32, wherein said method is used to assess parenchymal damage.